

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A glazing system for attaching a façade to a building, comprising:

 a distance element engaged with a frame of a building;
 at least one supporting element attached to said distance element and configured to engage a bottom edge of a portion of said façade, thereby maintaining said façade in an elevated position;

 at least one retaining element attached to said distance element and including a groove for engagement with a side edge of a portion of said façade, thereby preventing movement of said façade in a direction toward or away from a building, said at least one retaining element attached to said distance element by means of an organ member attached to said at least one retaining element, and a coupling organ attached to said organ member and said distance element, whereby said façade may be attached to said at least one retaining element before mounting on said distance element for handling said façade from the inside of a building, and preventing damage thereto.

10. (new) The glazing system of claim 9, including a connection unit attached to said distance element, said at least one supporting element, and said at least one retaining element.

11. (new) The glazing system of claim 10, further comprising arms, said arms having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is attached to said connection unit and said second end is attached to said coupling organ, and wherein said connection unit is attached to said distance element, two or more of said at least one supporting elements, and two or more of said at least one retaining elements.

12. (new) The glazing system of claim 9, wherein said at least one retaining element is substantially U-shaped and has a coupling organ engagement portion, a waist portion, and a flange

portion, wherein said coupling organ engagement portion contacts a surface of said façade proximate to said coupling organ, said flange portion contacts a surface of said façade remote from said coupling organ, and said waist connects said coupling organ engagement portion with said flange portion and is configured to traverse said façade at a side edge thereof, wherein said coupling organ engagement portion and said flange portion of said of said at least one retaining element each taper away from an opposing surface of said façade at a side edge thereof, thereby defining a void between said façade and said coupling organ engagement and flange portions of said at least one retaining element, and wherein said at least one retaining element is composed of a hard material.

13. (new) The glazing system of claim 12, wherein said flange portion of said at least one retaining element is biased in a direction toward said façade when said at least one retaining element is attached thereto.

14. (new) The glazing system of claim 10, wherein said coupling organ is operatively engaged with said connection unit, and moveable with respect thereto, whereby the position of said coupling organ can be adapted to correspond to a position of said at least one retaining element during installation of said façade.

15. (new) The glazing system of claim 10, wherein said connection unit is cylindrical in shape and has a first end, a second end, and a side portion, wherein said first end is attached to said distance element, said second end is attached to said at least one supporting element, and said side portion is attached to said at least one retaining element.

16. (new) The glazing system of claim 10, further comprising said façade, comprising a panel having an outer sheet, an inner sheet, a framework connecting said outer sheet to said inner sheet and spanning a distance therebetween, and an

Application No.: 10/501,809

Docket No.: ALBIHN W 3.3-454

elastic insert positioned at a bottom edge of said panel, and wherein said panel is retained in position by said at least one retaining element, and the weight thereof is supported by said at least one supporting element.